Step. 8

DING DONG
EH?
CHIKA DIDN'T COME WITH YOU?
SHE SAID THAT SHE WAS GOING TO A NEARBY SHOP TO BUY SOME SWEETS.
SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!
HI. HOW'S YOUR ARM INJURY?
THANKS TO YOU...
THE STITCHES HAVE BEEN REMOVED.

*PROOFREADING IS THE LAST PART OF THE EDITING PROCESS
THE WATER'S BOILING.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK?
YOU'RE SUCH A LOW-RANKING EMPLOYEE, YOU PROBABLY DON'T DO ANYTHING.
AND YOU AREN'T MY EDITOR ANYWAY
JEEZ, PLEASE BE MORE CAREFUL NEXT TIME, OKAY? SENSEI~
PROOFREADING IS A DIFFICULT JOB, YOU KNOW
WE DON'T HAVE ANY OF THAT! WOULD YOU PLEASE AGREE ON ONE THING?
HOT WHITE CHOCOLATE WITH VANILLA SAUCE.
BEER.
I WANT TO DRINK CHINESE ROSE ICED LEMON TEA.
LOOK, I GOT A REALLY GOOD DEAL.
RYOU-CHAN!
-Over-
DID SHE MENTION WHAT SHE WOULD BE BUYING?
JAPANESE SWEETS AND WESTERN SWEETS ARE VERY DIFFERENT, AFTER ALL.
WAIT. NO MATTER WHAT WE DRINK, WOULDN'T IT TASTE BETTER IF IT'S COMPATIBLE WITH THE SNACKS ...?

SFX. SPLASH...
バシャ
EH...

GYAAAH!
HOT WATER?!
QUICK, SOMEONE GET SOME WATER!
NO, GET ICE INSTEAD!
GO TO THE HOSPITAL!
SFX WAAAAH! GYAAAAH!
.....

AM I BEING CURSED?
WHY IS IT THE RIGHT ARM THAT'S HURT AGAIN..?!
IT'S PROBABLY RETRIBUTION FOR THE BAD DEEDS THAT YOU'VE COMMITTED...
RYOU-CHAN, I'M SORRY!
CRAP, THE DEADLINE IS NEARING, TOO!
NORI-CHAN, YOU GO EXPLAIN TODAY'S SITUATION TO MANAGEMENT, OKAY?
I'M SORRY, I'M JUST A LOW-RANKED EMPLOYEE.
Push the deadline to the last minute!
RATHER THAN THAT, DAY-TO-DAY THINGS ARE GOING TO BECOME A HASSLE AREN'T THEY?
ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT INVOLVE CONTACT WITH WATER..
MEDICINE
AH—
I KNOW!
RYOU-CHAN, UNTIL YOU'VE HEALED, I'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!

Red Bean Soup
Big Packet
I'M SORRY, I SUDDENLY HAVE A REALLY BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS ...!
WE'LL IT DO THAT WAY, THEN.
THAT'S A GOOD IDEA
EH~~~ ?!
RYOU-CHAN, I'LL LET YOU HAVE MY SHARE TOO
OH YEAH! I WENT TO BUY JAPANESE SWEETS JUST NOW.
JAPANESE SWEETS ARE REALLY POPULAR IN OUR SCHOOL RIGHT NOW!
Exactly
AND THEY AREN'T FATTENING AT ALL
STILL, SURELY THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT TO THINGS!
CHIKA-CHAN — I THINK THAT THIS CAN ONLY BE CONSIDERED ONE PART OF A JAPANESE SWEET.
AND CAN'T BE EATEN ALONE.
MY THOUGHT WAS THAT WE MIGHT AS WELL EAT THE MOST GENUINE TYPE
THAT'S TOO GENUINE

I PREFER WESTERN-STYLE SWEETS.
DON'T YOU LIKE SWEETS TOO, RYOU-CHAN?
THAT SAID
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF ME.
AFTER ALL, KOU IS HERE.
EH
AH!
WHAT HAPPENED? IS HE MISSING?
.. DAD HASN'T BEEN HOME FOR THREE DAYS ...
AH.. MUM SAID THAT...
WHAT IS IT?
SOMETIMES, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT HE SHOULD JUST DIE OR SOME-THING!
ALL HE DOES IS CAUSE TROUBLE CAN'T HE EVEN CON-SIDER HOW WE FEEL?
HE WENT TO HIS MISTRESS'S PLACE
I'M SORRY .

SHE'S YOUR MOTHER, YOU KNOW!
I THINK YOU'D BETTER GO HOME AND LET HER RANT TO YOU FOR A WHILE, AND MAKE SOME NICE THINGS FOR HER TO EAT.
...IT'S FINE, I'D RATHER STAY HERE.
HEY!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ME. I'LL SETTLE IT MYSELF.
IF DAD COMES BACK, JUST SEND HIM FLYING WITH A HARD KICK
ANYWAY, YOU GO HOME NOW AND COME AGAIN TOMORROW.

YEAH. I NEVER TOLD YOU GUYS?
THIS IS ALSO THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD OF IT.
...I ONLY MET YOUR BROTHER RECENTLY, AFTER ALL.
...SO THE TWO OF YOU ARE HALF-BRO-THERS.
RYOU-CHAN, WHAT'S THE MEANING OF HALF-BRO-THERS?
IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE THE SAME FATHER BUT DIFFE-RENT MO-THERS.
DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

SO IT'S LIKE HOW EVEN THOUGH RED BEAN PASTRIES ARE NICE, WES-TERN-STYLE SWEETS ARE VERY CUTE AS WELL, RIGHT?
MUNCH MUNCH
...AH, FORGET IT. JUST THINK OF IT IN ANY WAY THAT YOU LIKE.
EH?
NORI
WELL, WE SHOULD GET GOING SOON.

COME TO THINK OF IT
DID YOU COME HERE TO INVITE US OUT?
WITH YOUR ARM IN THAT CONDITION, IT ISN'T CONVENIENT FOR YOU TO GO ANYWHERE, RIGHT?
I THINK IT'S BETTER FOR YOU TO START WORK ON THE DRAFTS!
BYE
Good luck, Chiaki!
YOU TWO JUST HAVE A NICE TIME TOGETHER TODAY.
RYOU-CHAN, RYOU-CHAN!
バタン
SFX SLAM
YOUNG WIFE
WOULD YOU LIKE TO EAT OR HAVE A BATH FIRST?
This is Kou's apron
I...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DO THE DISHES LATELY..
I GOT IT!

Since she's been living with Haruka, who's absolutely terrible at housework,
she should be fine with the basics...
OKAY!
AFTER YOU'VE FINISHED THE DISHES, HELP ME PREPARE THE BATH WATER.
...THEN COOK DINNER.
Eh...?!

Every-
BUT LOOKING AT THIS TRAGIC SITUATION, I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THAT YOU MUST BE RELATED AFTER ALL.
WHAT ARE YOU HAPPY ABOUT?
AND WHY ARE THERE RED BEANS IN THE MISO SOUP?
EH~ IS THAT SO?

YOU'RE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM HARUKA...

I'M PLANNING TO ADD CHOCOLATE NEXT TIME!
PLEASE DON'T ADD ANY MORE SWEETS TO IT, OKAY?

WHEN I WAS FIFTEEN OR SIXTEEN, I WAS ALREADY GOOD AT COOKING.
AS FOR KOU, HIS FOOD WAS ON A TOTALLY DIFFERENT LEVEL ALTOGETHER. LIKE A MOTHER'S

I DON'T KNOW ...
SHE LEFT LONG BEFORE KOU WAS BORN
So she was listening after all...
EH
THAT'S NATURAL
ISN'T IT?
KOU IS ALSO VERY DIFFERENT FROM YOU
RYOU-CHAN, WHERE'S YOUR MOTHER?
COME TO THINK OF IT
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
SHE MAY NOTICE IT WHILE IN A BOOKSTORE, AND GO "AH!" IN SURPRISE!
DOES SHE KNOW THAT YOU'RE A MANGAKA?
PRO-BABLY NOT.
AFTER ALL, IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE WE LAST MET.
BUT YOUR WORKS ARE PUBLISHED UNDER YOUR REAL NAME!

MOISTURIZING CONDITIONER
Done
MILD AND GENTLE
MERITTO
SHAMPOO
I'LL HELP YOU GET SQUEAKY CLEAN!
Slam
WHY DID YOU CHASE ME OUT?!
ドンドン
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT MALES AND FEMALES SHOULD MAINTAIN A RESPECTABLE DISTANCE?
I DEFINITELY WON'T ALLOW YOU TO ENTER!
SFX BANG BANG

BUT ISN'T IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO WASH WITH ONE HAND?
IT'S JUST A MINOR INJURY. I'LL BE FINE ON MY OWN!
IF YOU COME IN TO HELP, IT'LL JUST INCREASE MY PROBLEMS. DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THAT?
I'M BEGGING YOU. JUST DON'T DO ANYTHING. OKAY?
silence...
SFX: SLOWLY...

メリット
メリット
RYOU-CHAN, LOOK!
AH...
...IT'S OKAY IF IT'S JUST THE HAIR
IT'S LIKE FRESH BUTTER!
YEAH, YEAH...
!!
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE JAPANESE SWEETS NEXT AREN'T YOU?
I'm way too weak against her...

DAIFUKU MOCHI!
STOP PLAYING AROUND!
RIGHT NOW..
DOING THINGS LIKE THIS IS STILL OKAY...
?
BUT IF ONE DAY YOU HAVE SOME GUY THAT YOU LIKE...
THEN YOU HAVE TO STOP DOING THESE THINGS FOR ME.

RYOU-CHAN, WHAT KIND OF GIRL DO YOU LIKE?
I LIKE MATURE WOMEN
BUT YOU MAY HAVE SOMEONE IN THE FUTURE
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT NOW,
THERE'S NO ONE LIKE THAT AROUND CHIKA RIGHT NOW
IF I GET A GIRL-FRIEND,
WE ALSO WON'T BE ABLE TO DO THINGS LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
TALL,
WITH LONG HAIR.
SOMEONE WHO DARES TO SPEAK HER MIND
STRONG-WILLED, YET WITH A GENTLE FEELING
SOMEONE LIKE THAT?
IS THAT SO .
HOW ABOUT YOU, CHIKA?
ACTUALLY, I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT "LIKING SOME-ONE" FEELS LIKE
WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO EXPERIENCE IT?

FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN YOU SEE THE OTHER PERSON, YOUR HEART WILL START BEATING FASTER, AND YOUR EYES WILL KEEP ON STRAYING TOWARDS HIM
OR YOU'LL FEEL REALLY SHY WHEN TALKING TO HIM, BUT YOU STILL WANT TO SPEND MORE TIME TOGETHER.

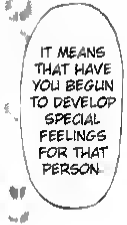
There's actually a member of such an endangered species here...
A SITUATION LIKE THAT
...IT'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE
SITUATION?

EH? BUT I DON'T WANT THAT
JEEZ!

SO IT'S LIKE THAT!
THAT'S RIGHT
WHEN SOMEONE LIKE THAT APPEARS IN YOUR LIFE, YOU CAN ACT AS CUTE AS YOU WANT TOWARDS HIM

I CAN'T TAKE CARE OF YOU FOREVER, YOU KNOW?

WHEN YOU EXPERIENCE THAT KIND OF SENSATION,


IT MEANS THAT HAVE YOU BEGUN TO DEVELOP SPECIAL FEELINGS FOR THAT PERSON.

EVEN IF YOU DON'T WANT IT, THAT DAY WILL DEFINITELY COME.

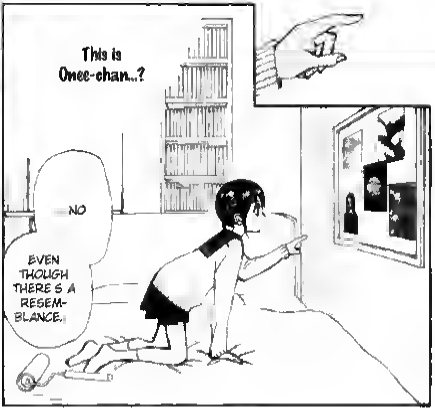
RYOU-CHAN HATES ME NOW.
AFTER ALL, IT'S THE WORST WHEN YOU MAKE SOMEONE FEEL THAT YOU'RE BEING TOO NOSY
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO EAGER TO BE OF HELP TO HIM THAT'S WHY IT BACKFIRED ON YOU
YOU SHOULD JUST FOCUS ON DOING THINGS THAT WILL MAKE HIM HAPPY!
SEEMS LIKE PUTTING IN EVERYTHING THAT I LIKE DOESN'T MEAN THAT IT WILL TASTE NICE
..IT'S BECAUSE YOU MADE SUCH STRANGE THINGS FOR HIM TO EAT!
YES.. I THINK THAT IT'S BEST IF YOU START OVER FROM THE BASICS.
RYOU'S ROOM

ISN'T THAT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING?

DON'T FORCE YOURSELF TO DO THINGS THAT YOU C.AN'T.
INSTEAD, FIND SOMETHING THAT WILL M.AKE HIM HAPPY OUT OF THE THINGS THAT YOU C.AN DO.

SEX BEEP
I UNDER-ST.AND! I WON'T FORCE MYSELF ANYMORE!
...Does she really under-stand?

Tall
with long hair
Strong willed yet with gentle feeling
A mature woman


This is Onee-chan...?
NO
EVEN THOUGH THERE S A RESEM-BLANCE.

The type of girl that Ryou-chan likes... Does she look like this?
HEY, CHIKA
WHERE'S BREAK-FAST?
SFX SCRATCHING
So sleepy...
...EVEN SO, IT'S ALREADY NOON.

If only I hadn't allowed her to wash my hair.
...No, something like that...
Dammit.. Why did I say such things to her yesterday?
...
Ding dong —
As the person looking after her, I need to give her proper guidance...
It's best to make sure that she understands it as soon as possible.
SFX BAM

WHAT THE ? SO IT'S YOU
WHAT'S WITH THAT BAD ATTITUDE?
CONSIDERING I DROPPED BY JUST TO SEE YOU
WHERE'S CHIKA?
SHE'S NOT HERE
I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE WENT
I'M GOING TO WORK ON THE DRAFT, SO JUST GO BACK!
YOU'RE ANNOYING!
AND SAID SOMETHING THAT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE, RIGHT?
YOU DEFINITELY ENCOUNTERED SOME UNFAVORABLE SITUATION...
SHOULD YOU REALLY SAY THAT?

YOU!
Where did you run off to?
I BUMPED INTO NORI-CHAN NEARBY
I ACTU-ALLY TOOK THE FIRST BUS BACK HOME
YOU SAID THAT YOU LIKED WESTERN-STYLE SWEETS, RYOU-CHAN,
SO I WENT BACK TO MAKE SOME
It's so nicely done!
JUST WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU LAST NIGHT?
BECAUSE I'M GOOD AT MAKING CAKES
OH YEAH
FOR THE PAST TWO DAYS, JUST WHY HAVE YOU
THAT'S GREAT!
munch munch
SO IT'S TRUE THAT PEOPLE WILL BE BETTER AT THINGS THAT THEY LIKE
THESE ARE REALLY GOOD!

NO MATTER HOW I THINK BOUT IT, I ALWAYS COME TO THIS CONCLUSION.
I STILL DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT IT MEANS TO HAVE "SPECIAL FEELINGS", BUT...
BECAUSE I LIKE RYOU-CHAN
...ISN'T IT FINE THE WAY THINGS ARE NOW?
AC
ACTUALLY,
IT'S NOT THAT IT ISN'T FINE...
..
Just what was I warning about?
THEN WHAT DOES CHIKA THINK OF ME?
I LIKE YOU TOO.

I LIKE HER!
HOW ABOUT YO-CCHAN?
YOUR SISTER?
I LIKE HER!
MIWA AND MATSUSHIMA?
Hey hey
I LIKE EVERYONE
BUT THE ONE THAT I LIKE BEST
...IS STILL RYOU-CHAN
"I can't take care of you forever!"
...I said something like that to her...

This current situation suddenly makes me feel so relaxed,
and relieved as well...
I KNEW IT I LIKE WESTERN-STYLE SWEETS TOO.
IS THAT SO?

Shoujo Sense

Why is that so?